

# **Together for Quality Stakeholder Council**

***Wednesday, August 8, 2007, 1:00 – 2:00 PM***

***Alabama Medicaid Agency Boardroom***

## **Minutes**

I. **Attendees:** See sign-in sheets

II. **Welcome and Introductions:**

Kim Davis-Allen welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their participation. She told everyone that even though she is the project manager for the Together for Quality project, “it is definitely a team effort”. Kathy Hall was introduced and thanked for her help. She also thanked others within and outside the Agency. Kim then provided an overview of the agenda for the meeting.

III. **Announcements:**

Kim Davis-Allen announced Mary Finch’s resignation from Medicaid and her new position as “the new Al Fox”. Commissioner Steckel explained that Mary will be taking over as the Executive Director of the Alabama Primary Health Care Association. Kim then relayed a message to the group from Mary stating how amazed, impressed and overwhelmed she is by the progress that has been and continues to be made.

Kim Davis-Allen announced the release of the RFP on July 28, 2007 (a day early!). Since that date we have answered vendor questions and held a vendor conference. There were seven responses to the RFP. The evaluation process is now underway and will hopefully be completed within the next seven to ten days. At that time recommendations will be made to the Commissioner for final presentation to the Contract Review Committee. Commissioner Steckel will ultimately make the final decision.

IV. **Finance Workgroup Status Report:**

Kim Bath, Agency Co-Chair, gave the report. The Finance Workgroup has had to do the least amount of work so far. Their part will be determining how the project is going to sustain itself once the grant funds are depleted. The workgroup will begin meeting again soon. Kim asked that any members of the workgroup that were present meet after adjournment to discuss future meetings.

V. **Privacy Workgroup Status Report:**

No one from the Privacy Workgroup was in attendance. Kim Davis-Allen gave a report for the group. The main concern of the Privacy group has been research. They have looked at other states in regard to opting in/opting out, security levels, and access levels. As the project progresses, the Privacy Workgroup will become more and more involved.

**VI. Technical Workgroup Status Report:**

Terrell Flowers gave the report for the Technical group.

As of today, the Technical Workgroup has met all of its required objectives in accordance with our assigned list of tasks. The Technical Workgroup continues to hold weekly conference calls each **Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.** to discuss and resolve issues.

Technical Workgroup submitted a middleware Enterprise Service Bus (EBS) on how the Alabama Department of Finance Information Services Division's (ISD) Chief Information Officer (CIO) sees its role in this project. The Technical Workgroup recommended that TFQ approve ISD's middleware solution. TFQ grant funds were approved by the TFQ Project Manager, the Commissioner and the TFQ Steering Committee for the purchase of BizTalk by ISD through the State Purchasing bid process. Upon concurrence by all approving authorities ISD initiated action to acquire the product.

According to our group, at this time, we do not see a need to refocus or re-prioritize any task. Some of the Technical Workgroup members are gearing up for RFP evaluation process.

**VII. Policy Workgroup Status Report:**

The Policy Workgroup's status report was given by Kathy Hall, Agency Co-Chair. The group met in July and discussed long-term government models from other states. Various workgroup members will contact their counter-parts in other states for feedback concerning provider's perspectives. This feedback will be discussed during the first meeting in September. The feedback will be used in deciding which models to focus on. There will be no meeting in August, but members are to continue with independent research. Kim Davis-Allen asked all attendees of the Stakeholder meeting to please let her or Kathy know if they run across anything (information, ideas, etc.) that could be helpful.

**VIII. Clinical Workgroup Status Report:**

Dr. Mary McIntyre, Agency Co-Chair, thanked all members of the workgroup for their hard work. She then gave a detailed power-point presentation on the mission of the project. This presentation is posted on the website. The detailed activities of the group are posted as part of the August status report.

The meeting dates for the month of August for the Clinical Workgroup are **August 8<sup>th</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5:00pm.**

**Next Steps**

- Review asthma QI baselines
- Develop diabetes care management algorithm

- Write articles for use in newsletters and identify op-ed opportunities for placement
- Develop logic and determine baselines for additional prioritized diseases; cardiovascular disease, stroke, COPD, and obesity.

Tina Ledbetter was introduced as the liaison between the providers in the pilot program, the vendor and the workgroups. She stated that surveys were sent out to the Patient 1<sup>st</sup> Providers in the 11 pilot counties and that to date we have received about 40% of them back. The following counties and the number of provider groups that have agreed to participate are as follows: Lamar County 1, Pickens County 1, Tuscaloosa County 3, Talladega County 2, Calhoun County 5, Montgomery County 7, Bullock County 1, Pike County 1, Winston County 1, Houston County 2 and Jefferson County 17. Tina stressed that if anyone in these eleven counties would like to participate and has not responded to the survey they can still send it in.

**IV. Together For Quality Status Report:**

Our first TFQ report has been sent to CMS. It will be posted to the website in the coming month. The National Association of State Medicaid Directors has sent out a survey and we are so far ahead in the process that we are receiving calls from other states for assistance. Questions have revolved around the actual grant, writing the RFP, and getting the process implemented. The CMS report highlighted the groundwork that was that was critical in getting where we are today. Another important part of the process has been the Stakeholder Council and getting the group together early on, getting their buy-in early on and getting their feedback on the whole process. We will be submitting a quarterly report to CMS.

**V. Closing Remarks, Next Meeting and Adjournment:**

Kim Davis-Allen let everyone know that we are open to alternatives to the meeting format. We are willing to do whatever needs to be done to accommodate the members of the group.

The next TFQ Stakeholder meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 1:00pm in the Medicaid Agency Boardroom.

The meeting was adjourned.